

VOL. V, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1966



# THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

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# The Voice of the Turtle

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB  
OF AMERICA

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VOL. V, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1966

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COVER COIN: JEWISH SHEKEL OF THE  
FIRST REVOLT (A.D. 66-70), "YEAR 2."  
Reifenberg 140.

Courtesy R. Braun (ACCA 159)

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## From the Editor's Desk



It was the editor's privilege to submit a report of his stewardship to the assembled members of the Ancient Coin Club of America at Chicago on August 17th last. It is fitting here, in an issue describing that meeting, to paraphrase, in essence, what was said a month ago.

"Unlike other officers in the club whose work often must go unheralded, the products of your editor's efforts are before you each month. This final result of such labor is yours to judge in the form of an issue of the *Voice of the Turtle*, and on those issues and to your judgement thereof your editor must rest his case.

"In the past 22 issues, one article has been rejected. This was not on the subject of coins, but rather on the subject of collectors. It was felt that the material was both inappropriate and offensive. Any editor must have the right to be the ultimate arbiter of what appears in print and what is rejected, but this power, particularly in an organization such as ours, must be used with great discretion.

"The articles which have appeared are written by members. Many of these appear as they were written; others have required editing and upon rare occasions, re-writing. Ultimately, the responsibility for what appears in this magazine lies with you. The *Turtle* can only print what is submitted to it by those who read it and support it.

"Therefore it is possible to pass the onus to you. If there are among you any who feel that the *Turtle* is not what you would like it to be, if there are any among you who want us to publish some special material—to him let me say that the responsibility for such change lies not with the editor—it lies with you.

"The *Voice of the Turtle* speaks in many lands. It spans every continent—it reaches beyond the 'iron curtain.' It and it alone provides the tenuous network which binds the international fraternity of specialists in ancient coins, wherever they are.

"This magazine has gained for itself a reputation, justly. I trust, as one of the important numismatic publications issued on a monthly basis. That it has become so is not the result of one person's efforts but rather it is the cumulative work of many—the editor, certainly; the publishers who have lavished such diligent love and effort upon it, to be sure; but more



important, our members who have generously taken of their time and their own peculiar knowledge and shared this with the rest of their brethren.

"The future of the *Turtle* will be what its past has been, what you decide it ought to be."

All that can be added to this is a public expression of gratitude upon the part of the editor to all those who have contributed material for publication, to all those authors who have patiently worked with him, and to all those fine people who have written letters of both compliment and criticism, and finally to the publishers with whom the editor has worked in close harmony for 18 months and to whom, both he and the entire membership owe a debt which will never be repaid.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, EDITOR

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# THE NUMISMATIC CABINET OF THE MUSEUM OF ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT

by EV. BRECCIA

Editor's Note: Most classical archaeologists writing a layman's guide to a museum seldom pay attention to the numismatic collection large or small, important or unimportant. Among the best exceptions which I know are the notable chapters on coins in the *British Museum Guide to the Exhibition Illustrating Greek and Roman Life* (3rd ed. London 1929, pp. 15-27), the same museum's *Guide to the Exhibition of Roman Coins* (Repr. 1952) and that in the *Guide Alexandria ad Aegyptum* by Ev. Breccia (English translation Bergamo 1922), pp. 297-314.

The last of this, since it is the unique short and popularized treatise in English on the history of Egyptian coinage from Alexander the Great to the Byzantine period and because it appears in a book which is not easy to locate, has been reprinted now in the *Turtle*. Beyond the fact that it gives a good description of the highlights in the Alexandrian Cabinet, it connects the Ptolemaic series with the well known Greek Imperial Coinage of Egypt and also gives an idea of the type of coin exhibits which appeared in the museums of the Mediterranean countries in the first quarter of the 20th century.

In the present first section we give the portion of the description dealing with Ptolemaic coins. The second part on Imperial coins will appear in the next issue. Numbers (other than dates) which appear in parentheses in the text refer to the numbers of the coins in the glass exhibit cases.

\* \* \*

The *Numismatic Cabinet* occupies rooms 2, 3, 4, 5. At the present time the number of coins amounts to more than 7000, and we shall be able to increase these numbers by several hundreds when we have had time to sort out and to classify those that we have in store, and also when the Museum buildings have been enlarged.

The object of our collection is to form as complete a series as possible of *Ptolemaic* and *Imperial Roman Coins* struck at Alexandria (*Nummi Augustorum Alexandrini*). Naturally other groups of coins accruing from excavations on Egyptian soil find and will find their place here.

ROOM 3. — GLASS-CASE A-B (TO THE RIGHT OF ENTRANCE).

1 (fig. 1). Tetradrachm struck in the name of Alexander the Great, during the satrapy of Cleomenes (330-323 B.C.) Obverse: Head of Hercules in lion-skin. Reverse: On the right from the top downwards: ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ ; Zeus to left,





Fig. 1

seated on a throne, his left hand lifted up holding a sceptre, the eagle in his right hand. Head of Ammon in the field to left.

2-45. COINS STRUCK DURING THE SATRAPY OF PTOLEMY, SON OF LAGUS (FROM 323-2 TO 306-5 B.C.).

The silver coins have all got on the Obverse the head of Alexander the Great, in profile to right, with the horns of Ammon, the elephant-skin on his head and the aegis knotted round his neck. The Reverses of certain series represent Zeus seated on a throne, as on the coins belonging to the satrapy of Cleomenes; other series represent Athena Promachos, striding to right, in the field on left  $\Lambda\Lambda\Xi\Xi\text{AN}\Delta\text{POY}$  from the bottom upwards, and in front of Athena a small eagle, its wings closed, in profile to right.

After the death of Alexander the Great, Ptolemy, son of Lagus, governed Egypt as satrap under the suzerainty of Philip Arridaeus at first (323-317), then under that of Alexander IV, posthumous son of the Conqueror, from 317-311 B.C., at which date Cassander murdered the boy king and this crime definitely broke up the unity of the empire. The satraps became the real kings of their provinces and towards 306-5 B.C., they effectively took that title.



Fig. 2

46-274. COINS STRUCK BY PTOLEMY, WHEN HE BECAME KING OF EGYPT (PTOLEMY SOTER).

They may be divided into two principal series: one which contains the most ancient coins, with the head of Alexander on the Obverse, and Athena Promachos on the Reverse like the coins of the satrapy (fig. 2): the other series is composed



of more recent coins which bear on the Obverse the head of Ptolemy Soter, to right, diademed, with an aegis knotted around his neck. On the Reverse: ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ at the left, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ at the right, and in the space between an eagle with closed wings, to left, standing on a thunderbolt, and to the left of the eagle a letter or a monogram (fig. 2a). In glass-case A a beautiful group of pentadrachms in gold may be seen (fig.3).

Fig. 2a



Ptolemy I. reigned till 285 B.C. At that date he abdicated in favour of his son (born of Berenice), Ptolemy II, known by the name of Philadelphus); Ptolemy I. died in 283 B.C. GLASS-CASE B-C. 275-550. COINS STRUCK DURING THE REIGN OF PTOLEMY II PHILADELPHUS (FROM 285-4 TO 246-5 B.C.).

Fig. 3



These coins may be grouped into several series. There are some that repeat the type of the coins of Ptolemy I allowing, naturally, for diversity in the monograms (see some beautiful gold pentadrachms, Nos. 275-280, and the silver tetradrachms which follow them). Others have on their Obverse: Head of Arsinoe with crown and veil, in profile to the right; and on the Reverse the eagle with the inscription ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ to the left, and ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ to the right (Nos. 331-342) and especially the beautiful gold coin 342 (fig. 4). Others have

Fig. 4



on the Obverse the bust of Zeus Ammon, and on the Reverse sometimes one, sometimes two eagles (Nos. 343-372). Others are of the Ptolemy Soter type but have on the Reverse, behind the eagle, a shield (Nos. 373-382). Others again are also of the Ptolemy Soter type but as well as the monograms have various symbols (shield, club, etc.), in front of the eagle (Nos. 383-427, etc.). The gold coins 428-434 and 436 have on the one side the two busts of Ptolemy I, and his wife Berenice, and on the other the busts of Ptolemy II, and his wife Arsinoe. Above the busts of the former the inscription ΘΕΩΝ; above the others ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ. In the space behind the Adelphi (brother and sister) a shield (fig. 5).



Fig. 5

Ptolemy II, married as his first wife the daughter of Lysimachus of Thrace (Arsinoe I), then his own sister Arsinoe II, widow of Lysimachus, whom she had caused to be assassinated by her blood brother Ptolemy Ceraunus. But her accomplice had obliged her after this to flee from Thrace, and she sought a refuge at Alexandria. This woman succeeded so well in getting round her brother that he exiled his first wife and married his sister, an action, however which conformed to the traditions and manners of the ancient native



Fig. 6

dynasties. Arsinoe, a woman of extreme political ability, received, while living, almost divine honours and at her death was deified. (glass-case C. 551-619. Coins struck by Ptolemy III, Euergetes, from 247-6 to 221-0).

Attention may be drawn to the silver decadrachms ornamented with the bust of Arsinoe II, Philadelphus, with crown and veil on the Obverse, and the double cornucopia and the



inscription ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ on the Reverse (fig. 6). The bronze coins have either the head of Zeus Ammon or the bust of Ptolemy III (Nos. 601-603) on the Obverse; the silver tetradrachms bear on the contrary the bust of Ptolemy I (Nos. 604-606). On the Reverse generally an eagle in profile to the left on a thunder-bolt, often with head turned backwards, and cornucopia either high up behind the eagle or in front of it at the bottom.

Ptolemy III succeeded his father in 247-6 B.C. He married his cousin Berenice, daughter of Magas of Cyrene, a woman of remarkable sagacity. Ptolemy enlarged the Egyptian empire by means of a victorious expedition against Syria. 620-

Fig. 7



673. Coins struck by Ptolemy IV (from 221-0 to 204-3). Observe particularly the superb gold octodrachm (No. 620) with the bust of Ptolemy III, his head surmounted by a diadem crowned with rays, the aegis knotted on his right shoulder, the central point of the trident ends in a sceptre. On the Reverse a cornucopia whose upper edge is ornamented with rays (fig. 7). 621. Tetradrachm in silver with the busts of Serapis and Isis on the Obverse, and on the Reverse an eagle standing on a thunderbolt in profile to the

Fig. 8



left, head turned to the right, and a double cornucopia on its back (fig. 8).

Ptolemy IV married his sister Arsinoe. They died mysteriously, victims of a court intrigue, in 204-3 B.C.

GLASS-CASE C. 679-684. GLASS-CASE D. 685-699. Coins struck by Ptolemy V. Epiphanes (from 204-3 to 181-0 B.C.). On the Obverse sometimes the bust of Ptolemy I (679), sometimes that of Isis crowned with wheat-ears (680-684), and sometimes that of Ptolemy V (695).

He married Cleopatra, daughter of Antiochus, king of Syria. GLASS-CASE D. 700 AND FOLLOWING. Coins struck during the reign of Ptolemy VI (from 181-0 to 174-3 B.C.), under the regency of his mother Cleopatra. The three pieces worthy of attention in this series are the gold octadrachms, representing the bust of Cleopatra, exactly similar to that of Arsinoe II, with diadem, veil, and sceptre. The letter K at the back of her head is the characteristic indication of the name (ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑ). On the Reverse ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ to the left. ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ to the right, with a double cornucopia between (fig. 9).

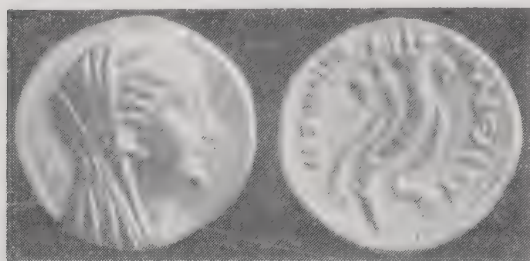


Fig. 9

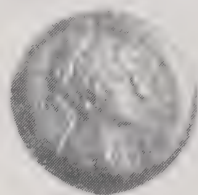


Fig. 10

The Ptolemaic coins struck in later times bear no interest except for specialists. We will confine ourselves to drawing attention to the bronze coins exhibited in glass-case E (Nos. 1059 and following) bearing on the Obverse the bust of the last of the Ptolemaic Queens, the famous Cleopatra VI (fig. 10).

## ACCA MEMBERS MEET AT ANA CONVENTION

About 30 members of the ACCA met on Wednesday, August 17 at 2 o'clock during the ANA convention. Among these were at least two who had joined just the day before, as well as some charter members. The entire country was represented and there were also members from abroad. Many more ACCA members attended the convention but were unable to get to the meeting because they were occupied in the bourse, or attended on other days.

As most members are aware, the ACCA has grown swiftly, and the constitution and original procedures could not be utilized to advantage for a club numbering over 1000 active members. With this in mind there had been considerable correspondence among members over the country about what corrective measures could be taken and what improvements could be made to make the ACCA a working and growing organization. The meeting was held in order to permit the members in attendance to present their conclusions, as well as to provide a meeting place for them.



Joel Malter presided over the meeting as the past Vice-President. Because there had not been official minutes taken at the last meeting (at the ANA convention in Houston in 1965) there was no secretary's report per se. However, Alyce Cresap made a report on behalf of the publishers of the *Turtle*, (a summary of which follows) which included membership statistics and financial details for the past year. John Hartmann made a report as editor of the *Turtle* and also summarized the activities of the local chapters and the research committee in the absence of the chairmen. Calvin Woods and Charles Colbert, respectively.

A motion was made and passed that Joel Malter continue in office, but as acting president, until such time as a constitution can be written, approved by the membership and a general election held. He then called for new business and a lengthy discussion followed concerning the drafting of a new constitution and by-laws. An *ad hoc* committee of volunteers met for several hours after the general meeting to prepare a rough draft which will be sent to all members when completed. The members of this committee are Dolores Wolken, Bruce Braun, Patricia Braun, John Hartmann, David Ader, Robert Grossman, Doris Martin, Herb Brabandt and Alyce Cresap.

It was unanimously decided that the ACCA should be incorporated as a non-profit corporation and David Ader of Chicago, a law student, reported that he has reserved the name Ancient Coin Club of America with the Secretary of State of Illinois. This name will be held for the ACCA until its constitution is approved by the membership, at which time the ACCA will be incorporated officially.

#### SUMMARY OF PUBLISHERS' REPORT

In February of 1965 Argonaut Inc., Publishers was asked officially by the then president of the ACCA, George Broughton, and the Editor, John E. Hartmann to assume publication of the *Voice of the Turtle*, commencing with the March issue. At that time the treasury of the ACCA was depleted to the extent that another issue of the *Turtle* could not be guaranteed. The incomplete membership list available at that time consisted of 634, although 75% of these were simply assumed to be members as no records of payment were available. When these people were requested to fulfill their membership obligations and failed to do so over 400 names were dropped from the rolls with the result that the actual paid ACCA membership of 18 months ago was actually 207. It was apparent that

the dues from a group this size could not support the publication of even a newsletter for very long.

When the *Turtle* appeared in its new format, with typeset articles, enamel paper and a wealth of articles on ancient and medieval numismatics, a number of numismatists believing in the future of a magazine dedicated to the study of this long neglected field began to support the ACCA. With thanks we mention the names of Jim Johnson (*Coin World*), Margo Russell (*Coin World*), Russell Rulan (*World Coins*), Herbert Bardes (*The New York Times*), Ed Rochette (*Numismatic News*), Belmont Faries (*Washington Star*), Seaby's *Coin and Medal Bulletin*, and Miss Barbara Lyon, free lance writer. We are also indebted to our many advertisers, new and old, who have supported the *Turtle* by contracting for advertising space and mentioning it in their lists and catalogues. With the help of these and others, the news of the existence of the ACCA and the *Turtle* was spread over the world in 1965 and 1966 with the result that by August 15, 1966 the ACCA membership had increased to 978 paid members, plus 12 honorary memberships and 13 institutional or exchange members, for a total of 1,003. (At this writing two weeks later, 40 more members have been added to our group.)

The publishers have covered all expenses incurred by the ACCA to date which were not borne by subscriptions, dues and advertising revenue. As of August 15 this amount was \$3,115.79 for such expenditures as mailing of sample copies, postage, printing and distribution of membership cards, sending of renewal notices, etc., but no invoice covering these expenses has been submitted yet.

It is the belief of the editor and the publishers that the ACCA can and will be on a firm financial footing within another year if we maintain our current rate of growth and the advertising revenue continues to increase. At the time of the ACCA meeting, the ACCA had a balance from dues and subscriptions of \$376.45 to apply to future printing costs, although this does not reflect any reduction in the amount advanced by the publishers for the support of the ACCA and the *Turtle*.

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# The Agora and the Forum

In Athens men met in the Agora and in Rome, affairs of business and state were debated in the Forum. So "Voice of the Turtle" asks that members write us their views. These will be published for open consideration and discussion.

Although I am writing this far away from my reference library, I should like to make the following additions to the listing of issues from Cremna as presented by H. Maitland (*VOT*, Vol. V, No. 7, July, p. 204). From memory I know coins of Cremna for the following: Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, L. Verus, Commodus, Lucilla, Septimius Severus, Caracalla, Geta, Julia Domna, Severus Alexander, Maximinus, Gordian III, Tranquillina, Philip I, Trebonianus Gallus, Valerian, Gallienus, Herennia Etruscilla and family (Trajan Decius, Hostilian, Herennius) and Herennius Etruscus.

For coins of Aurelian I know the following types: 1) Asklepios and Hygieia; 2) temple front, DON SACR CER-TAMEN (or similar); 3) goddess between 2 modii, DONATIO; 4) Artemis of Ephesus; 5) Prize crown and wreath inscribed IEPOS, (large & small denominations); 6) Fortuna wearing short chiton, holding bust of emperor, right foot on river god, behind: griffin and wheel; 7) Lato holding Artemis and Apollo; 8) Serapis, Hades and Cerberus seated; 9) Apollo Propylaeos.

The type of Leto and her children I can recall from Tripolis (Lydia), and Miletus, but it also appears on other cities of Phrygia, Lydia and Ionia.

Fortuna appears on coins of Cremna (and almost all other cities) quite frequently. Her appearance hardly suggests a crisis. The Donatio, or largess, of bread and games is a frequent imperial gesture, neither necessarily nor usually an emergency dole. ROBERT HECHT, Rome, Italy.

\* \* \*

The coin in the *Turtle*, July, 1966, p. 204 to me seems to represent Leto fleeing the dragon, Python, at Delphi with her twins, Apollo and Artemis on her arms. Apollo is on her left and Artemis on her right arm. I read the inscription, LATO—the Doric form of LETO. A torso with the same group is in the Villa Torlonia. See Helbig, *Führer durch die öffentlichen Sammlungen klassischer Altertümer in Rom*, third ed. no. 98 L. DR. MARGARETE BIEBER, New York.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was one of the most inspiring received in some time. It contains constructive suggestions, some of which will be effected as soon as practicable. It demonstrates again the extent to which all members can contribute. The author of this letter is to be congratulated for a well considered program.

... Now for a few suggestions as to how the professionals can help the amateurs.

1. Continue to orient the *Turtle* toward the serious numismatist, in most articles. The pure collector probably doesn't subscribe, or if he does, it is for the ads. Reference material of a high quality at a reasonable price is our greatest need.

2. Encourage member-dealers to put full descriptive material in all their auction and sale catalogues. Of all the U.S. dealers with whom I have done business, not one has done so. By contrast all of the European dealers with whom I have corresponded have given full and complete descriptions of their material. Perhaps I am the only U.S. collector who cares what mint mark is on a late Roman bronze, but it would seem logical for any real numismatist to want to know exactly what he was buying — including full obverse and reverse inscriptions and mint marks. These dealer's lists and catalogues could be valuable additional references for those of us with limited means, but in too many cases they are nothing more than good scratch paper.

3. Print an article in the *Turtle* giving a list of other current periodicals which have good information in them and give prices and information as to how to subscribe to them. I first heard about the ACCA in *Coin World*. How about information as to how to obtain publications of the ANS or how to subscribe to the *Numismatic Circular* or *Numismatic Review*? I'm not ashamed to plead ignorance and ask for help along this line.

4. It would be nice to see an article on how to prepare good molds and rubbings of coins. This would make it easier to correspond with others with questions and problems concerning our coins.

5. Please quit assuming that every person who receives the *Turtle* has all the back issues.

Please don't interpret this as letting off steam or as dissatisfaction with the club or the *Turtle*. I just felt that it was time that someone spoke for the "little guy" who is doing his level best to learn something of the fascinating world of the ancients from his two or three dozen two or three dollar bronzes. I congratulate you on the valuable service you are providing for us all and wish you the best in the future. CAPT. SPENCER I. RADNICH, JR.



I am interested in photographing my ancient coin collection for displays, etc. and in case of theft. Therefore would you please have an article written and published in the *Turtle* on that subject. ROGER L. BAER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reader Baer's request is quite legitimate and the *Turtle* would like very much to publish an article on the subject of photographing ancient coins. If you are a photographer and have experience photographing coins an article covering this subject would be most welcome.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A long letter under the date of July 21 was received from our colleague, Andrzej Piwowarczyk, Editor of the *Biuletyn Numizmatyczny* which is a publication of the Polish Archeological Society.

He advises that the *Bulletin*, which heretofore has been published by the Warsaw branch of the Society is now to serve all of Poland.

He also advises that the *Voice of the Turtle* receives a rather wide circulation among numismatists engaged with the national museums in Poland.

This is the 1000th anniversary year of the first Polish coin and Mr. Piwowarczyk has kindly offered to submit a short article on that subject for the benefit of readers of the *Turtle*.

He also advises that Dr. Skowronek, Assistant Director of the National Museum at Krakow has agreed to furnish the *Turtle* with a translation of his excellent article on Roman Republican Denarii which recently appeared in the *Biuletyn Numizmatyczny*.

Readers of the *Turtle* who are interested in Polish numismatics and the publications of the Archaeological Society may correspond with editor Piwowarczyk. The magazine is, without question, a well planned journal of the highest quality. Write to: *Biuletyn Numizmatyczny*, Polskie Towarzystwo Archeologiczne Warszawa, ul Jezuicka Nr 6, Poland.

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# THE COINAGE OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC III

by H. MAITLAND

The first Roman silver coin was the didrachm and must be dated as having come into being at the same time as the first cast bronzes, namely, 269 BC. It was minted on the same standard as those of the South Italian Cities, that is, the Attic.

Here the author must digress for a moment. Livy states that the denarius was introduced in 269. For many years, this statement was accepted, particularly among those who felt that Roman coins went further back in history. Mattingly and Robinson in their article, "The Date of the Roman Denarius," published in the *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 1932 demonstrate to almost universal satisfaction that the denarius must be dated at least 100 years after 269 B.C. They argue that Livy's reference to the denarius must be interpreted as referring to the first silver coins, the didrachmae.

Rome continued to mint didrachms until the second Punic War at which time the standard was reduced from an average weight of 6.75 grams to 6 grams. At the time of this reduction, the coin came to have a distinctive type (which will be discussed further in a section on types) the quadriga. It is by the type that this reduced didrachm is known, the "quadrigatus." The quadrigatus had a half of 3 grams also known from its prominent type of "victory" as the "victoriatuſ." These coins continued until c. 169 BC when a new "nummus" or standard silver coin, the denarius, was introduced.

The denarius was struck on the basis of 84 pieces to the Roman pound with an average weight of 3.9 grams per piece. It was the standard Roman coin until 238 AD when it appears to have been replaced by the Antoninianus.

As has been pointed out, some question can be raised as to whether the Republic ever was on a bimetallic system of silver and bronze. There is a tendency today to doubt this. There can be no denying that the denarius was tariffed in terms of asses however, since the early denarii bore marks of value that left no doubt of this.

Most authors have presumed that the early didrachm was valued at six asses. As the bronze weights began to fall, the relative value of the silver to the bronze either had to be raised in terms of bronze pieces or the weight of the silver "nummus" had to be reduced. It is easy to picture then, the reduction in weight of the didrachm to the "quadrigatus" and

later the reduction again to the denarius and the retariffing of the "nummus" from six to ten asses. Unfortunately there are problems involved here that do not accept such an easy solution.

In any event, denarii at their introduction, c. 169 BC, bear an "X," a denomination mark signifying ten asses. During the time of Gaius Gracchus, c. 122 BC, the denarius was retariffed to 16 asses. Thenceforth it bore the mark of value of either "XVI" or "X" with a horizontal bar through the center.

For gold there is little that needs to be said. There were two issues of gold coins during the second Punic War, these being dated to 217 BC and 209 BC respectively. They are strictly emergency issues. During the Aquillea gold rush, an abundance of gold brought about a short issue (c. 170 BC) of 3, 2 and 1 scruple pieces respectively marked 60, 40 and 20. Most people believe these values to be asses and if so they would represent a gold to silver ratio of 1:8. This is abnormally low, but reasonable in view of a gold surplus.

Caesar briefly introduced a gold piece and one is recorded for Pompey. Our statement that gold was not a significant coinage metal in the life of the Republic must hold true.

*(to be continued)*

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# THE HISTORICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A BYZANTINE COIN HOARD FROM DOBRUJA: II

by JOEL MALTER

(Continued from August, 1966, pp. 231-240)

## THE COINS

1. Theodosius II, 408-450, solidus (4.35 grams)

obv. DN THEODO SIVS P F AVG, helmeted and cuirassed bust of Theodosius facing front.

rev. VOT XXX MVLT XXXX S, Constantinople seated left, holding a sceptre and globus cruciger; a star in the field to the left; CONOB in exergue.

Ratto 173



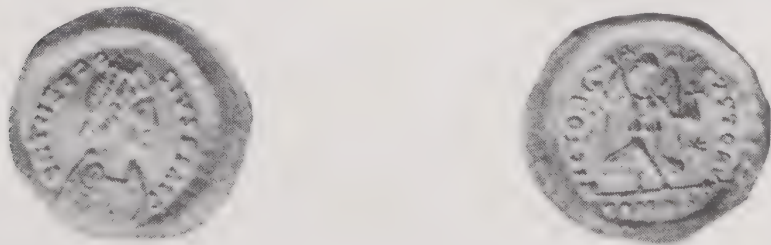
This piece has several crude rosette punch marks which partly obscure both the obverse and reverse of the coin. It is the only coin contained in the hoard with such markings. None of the major collections include specimens with this curious punch mark.

2. Theodosius II, tremissis (1.6 grams)

obv. Same legend, diademed bust of Theodosius to r.

rev. VICTORIA AVGVSTORVM CONOB. Victory advancing to the right, head turned back to left, holding a wreath in r. hand, and globus cruciger in left; a star in field to the right.

Ratto 186



This piece shows very little wear.

3. Anastasius, 491-518, solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. DNANASTA SIVS PP AVG. helmeted bust of Anastasius,  $\frac{3}{4}$  facing front., with armor and shield; his left hand holds shield; his right hand holds spear.

rev. VICTORI AVGGGI, Victory wearing chiton stg. left. holding staff in right hand which is surmounted by the Christogram; in exergue CONOB. in field to left, a star.

Ratto 321, not in Wroth, but type of Wroth 1-5, p. 2



This piece shows more than the average circulation wear.

4. Anastasius, tremissis (1.65 grams)

obv. Same legend. beardless and cuirassed bust of Anastasius wearing diadem and paludamentum to right.

rev. VICTORIAAVGVSTORVMCONOB. Victory wearing chiton, advancing to front, looking back left, holding wreath and globus cruciger.

Wroth 9 sq., p. 3



5. Anastasius, another tremissis (1.6 grams) the same as above.



Both pieces show a minimum of wear.

6. Justinian, 527-565, solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. DNIVSTINI ANVSPPAVG. bust of Justinian, beardless, facing front, holding globus cruciger in right hand and shield in left hand. He wears a plumed helmet and armor.

rev. VICTORI AAVGGGR CONOB. Victory standing, facing front, holding long cross and globus cruciger; in field to r., a star.

Wroth 8 sq., p. 27



The style of the solidus of Justinian, illustrated in the figure above, is poor. It is conceivably a later copy or a product of exceptionally poor workmanship unlike most of the solidi of Justinian.

7. Justinian, tremissis, (1.6 grams)

obv. Same legend, beardless bust of Justinian to right, wearing paludamentum and cuirass.

rev. VICTORIAAVGVSTORVMCONOB. Victory in chiton advancing to front, looking back left, holding wreath in right hand, globus cruciger in left; in field to right, a star.

Wroth 22, p. 28



This piece was pierced as were four other coins in the hoard.

8. Justin II, 568-578, solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. DNI VSTI NVSP PAVI. Bust of Justin II, beardless, facing front, wearing helmet and armor; his right hand holds globe surmounted by Victory to r., who is extending a wreath to his head; his left hand supports a shield.

rev. VICTORI AAVGGGA CONOB. Constantinople seated



on throne, facing. head to r., she wears tunic and mantle and is helmeted. She holds a sceptre in right and globus cruciger in left.

Wroth 1, p. 75



9. Justin II, another solidus (4.45 grams) of the same type as above. The reverse legend ends in "I" rather than "A".

Wroth 13, p. 76



Both of Justin II's solidi in this hoard show some wear.

10. Tiberius II Constantinus, 578-582, solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. DM TIB CONS TAN TPPAVI. bust of Tiberius, facing, wearing crown and armor; in right hand he holds globus cruciger, in left a shield.

rev. VICTORI AAVGGA, cross potent on four steps, in exergue CONOB.

Wroth 1, p. 105



This piece is in nearly uncirculated condition.

11. Tiberius II Constantinus, tremissis (1.55 grams)

obv. Same legend with no spacing between letter groups.  
Bust of Tiberius to r., wearing diadem, paludamentum on cuirass.

rev. UICTORTIBERIAUS, cross potent; in exergue, CONOB.

Wroth 15, p. 107



This specimen has a creased flan; otherwise only moderate wear.

12. Maurice Tiberius, 582-602, solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. DN MAURC TIBPPAVG, Bust of Maurice Tiberius facing, wears helmet and armor, in right hand holds globus cruciger.

rev. VICTORI AAVGGΔ CONOB, Victory in chiton and peplos, stg., facing front; in right hand holding long cross, in left hand holding globus cruciger.

Wroth 5, p. 128



This piece shows only moderate wear.

*(to be continued)*

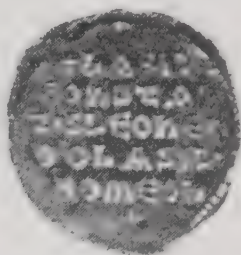
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### Books on the Near East

Madden, Fred W. **Madden's Handbook to Roman Coins**. London, 1861.  
Doughty, Charles M., **Travels in Arabia Deserta**, 2 vols., London 1936.  
Icard, Severin, **Identifications des Monnaies**, Paris, 1929. (This is a dictionary in French of Greek and Greek Imperial coin inscriptions).

Josephus. **Histories**, Cambridge, Mass., 1926.

Glueck, Nelson, **Deities and Dolphins**, New York, 1965. (This treats the southern half of the Nabatean Empire and its coins.)

British Museum, **Catalogue of Greek Coins**. The following volumes are available: **The Seleucid Kings of Syria; The Ptolemaic Kings of Egypt; Galatia, Cappadocia and Syria; Palestine; Arabia, Mesopotamia and Persia; Parthia; Lycaonia, Isauria and Cilicia; Phoenicia; Alexandria.**

Albright, W. F., **The Archaeology of Palestine**, Suffolk, 1956.

Runciman, S., **History of the Crusades**, 2 vols. Cambridge, 1952.

**Seaby's Coin Bulletins**, London, 1955-1966. Nearly complete series.

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